

To: Superintendents and Test Coordinators
From: Margo Healy, Director of Assessment and Accountability
Date: August 15, 2008
RE: Test Coordinators Update: 2008 ISAT Release This Week

Greetings to all of you,

Fall Testing for 10th graders and Retesting of 11th and 12th grade students

The fall testing option will continue to be complicated as we have never done the Graduation (Exit) Test in the fall before this year, 2008. Remember, this is an accommodation we are offering in lieu of the 9th grade ISAT for this group of students. Fall testing of 10th graders on the Graduation (Exit) Test was approved for 2008. We will revisit this decision for entering 10th graders in 2009-2010.

Do not be confused, this is NOT the 10th grade adaptive test!

Each district will have the option of testing incoming 10th grade students in the fall window. Test coordinators will be required to prepare and upload a file of 10th graders and retesting 11th and 12th graders. All students selected to test in the fall window will take the Graduation (Exit) Test. Test coordinators will be hearing from DRC about the procedures very soon!

- Students will be allowed to bank *proficient* and *advanced* scores
- Banked scores will be counted for AYP proficiency and participation determinations in spring 2009
- Banked scores will satisfy the graduation requirement
- All 10th grade students will take the science ISAT in the spring administration.

Repeat
from
last
week

Idaho Alternate Assessment (IAA) SEF uploads this fall

The IAA is for a very small number of special education students unable to take the ISAT. For the last two years, the data exchange for these students has been less than smooth or accurate. Many of you experienced difficulties! Please work with your special education directors and teachers to complete a file for upload before the fall window opens on September 15, 2008. New students entering during the year can be entered through the student editor prior to the spring test window.

New Enhancements to the Testing System

We have added many enhancements to make your work easier. Due to the large number (10), we will be offering webex trainings in the first two weeks of September (dates and times will be available next week). It will be essential that your district testing coordinator sign in. District Test Coordinators (DTC) are obligated to train all Building Test Coordinators (BTC) and proctors. Scheduling your training session to include the webex training will be a genius plan! Do it!!

Updating Contact Information

The State Department of Education (SDE) maintains contact lists for your convenience. I rely on the SDE list for distributing communications. Please be sure to visit the SDE site and make sure all of your contact information for your district is up to date: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/idci/default.asp>. In addition, double check your contact information at the DRC/CAL site: <http://isat.caltesting.org/>.

During these next eight weeks we will be uploading files, planning webex trainings, releasing memos on hot topics, posting Test Administration Manuals (TAMs), Test Coordinator Guides, and, changing passwords; you do not want to be left out! Get your contact information updated today!

Unintended Consequence - School and District 10th Grade Scale Score Averages for ISAT

Please, have a conversation with your administrative teams about the possible unintended consequence of allowing 10th grade students to bank a fall score and not retest in the spring. Students will undoubtedly score higher in the spring, after a year of instruction. If you do not retest, you will be averaging some proficient scores that are close to the proficient / basic cutpoint.

- If you report your average scale scores, you may see lower averages scale scores.
- If you report by proficiency levels, *advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic*, you might lose a students who may have moved to *advanced*.

Have a conversation and make an informed decision of how to handle the optional fall 10th grade opportunity for your district.